

# Collecting Butterflies in Central Europe, July 1977

By N. J. and A. C. DERRY\*

My brother and I set off from home by car with provisions and a tent and spent nearly a month driving in Central Europe. Unfortunately, we were very much dependent on the weather and after a few days of healthy sunshine, rain tended to play a prominent role in the proceedings and several days, including the last three, were "washed out" by torrential downpours. Our collecting in Austria, for instance, was limited to one afternoon only, continuous rain making it pointless staying longer. Thus there are several interesting species that we hoped to see but failed to observe. However, there was some sunshine, and the following is an approximate guide to the places we visited and butterflies observed.

Unfortunately, we appear to have been too early for some interesting species and many had only just emerged by late July. The high mountain species in particular, did not emerge until the latter half of July as shown by the wealth of these that we encountered near Pontresina (such as *P. callidice*, *C. palaeno europome* and *C. phicomone*) many of which had not been much in evidence before 19th July, despite our visiting suitable localities. We had anticipated that most of these would have been flying in early July. Furthermore, species such as *P. mnemosyne* were still on the wing, and not worn, and we saw no *P. phoebus* at all. Nevertheless, the holiday was a success and the total number of butterfly species seen was approximately 150.

30th June. (1) Near Laon, N.W. of Reims, France: marshy field surrounded by oak woodland. 1 ♂ *Lycaena dispar rutila* Werneberg (very worn). (2) North of Langres, N. of Dijon, France: fields rich in flowers.

1st July. (3) Near Pontarlier, S.E. of Besançon, France: marshy and flowery meadows. 2 *Erebia medusa medusa* S. (battered) — the only *medusa medusa* encountered on the trip. (4) Near Nyon, Lake Geneva, Switzerland: deciduous woodland (largely oaks). 1 ♀ *Apatura iris* L.; 2 *Nordmannia ilicis* Esper.

2nd July. (5) Near Thônes, E. of Annecy, France: wooded hillside giving way to ungrazed meadows higher up. 1 ♂ *Hipparchia fagi* Scopoli; several *Erebia oeme* H.; *Mellicta parthenoides* Kerferstein (abundant); 1 *Maculinea arion arion* L.; 1 ♀ *Plebicula thersites* Cantener; 1 ♂ *Glaucopsyche alexis* Poda (badly worn); 2 *Spialia sertorius* Hoffmannsegg; several *Pyrgus malvae malvae* L.; 3 *Melitaea didyma* Staudinger, larvae found (feeding on narrow-leaved plantain). (6) Near La Clusaz, E. of Annecy, France: scree and grassed slopes (grazed).

3rd and 4th July. (7) Mont Blanc area, Italy: north-facing and south-facing slopes. 1 ♂ and 2 ♀ *G. alexis*; several ♂ *Erebia triaria* De Prunner — on south-facing grassy slopes

\* Limeburners, Lincoln Hill, Ironbridge, Telford, Salop, TF8 7NL.

with scattered spruce trees; a few *Melitaea cinxia* L.; a few ♂ *Cupido osiris* Meigen; a few *Pyrgus andromedae* Wallengren.

4th July. (8) Col du Grand St. Bernard, Italy: south side. (9) Near Sierre, Switzerland: dry grassy slopes. A few *Hipparchia alcyone* S.; 1 *N. ilicis*.

5th and 6th July. (10) Simplon Pass, Switzerland: north and south sides (varied habitats). Several *E. triaria*; 1 fresh ♂ *Plebicula dorylas* S.; *Parnassius mnemosyne* L. (common, with 1 ♀ extensively suffused with fuscous, f. *melaina* Honrath); 1 ♂ *Plebejus pylaon trappi* Verity (fresh) — the only specimen seen on the trip; 1 ♂ *Plebicula escheri* H.; 1 *Erebia alberganus* f. *tyrsus* Fruhstorfer; 1 *S. sertorius*; 1 *Ochlodes venata* f. *alpinus* Hoffmann.

6th July. Near Fiesch, N.E. of Brig, Switzerland: dry grassy areas among pine woodland. Very little of note seen, disappointing after seeing insects in plenty here in August 1972. 1 *Parnassus appollo* L.; 1 *Melanargia galathea* L.; 1 *Lasiommata maera* L.; a few *Thymelicus lineola* Ochsenheimer; 1 *Pieris rapae* L.

7th July. (11) Lukmanier Pass and nearby, Italy: south side to Camperio. 1 ♂ *Clossiana thore* H. — among spruce woodland. (12) Near Biasca, N. of Bellinzona, Italy: rough ground amongst a conifer plantation. 1 *M. arion arion*; a few *Clossiana dia* L. Near Roveredo, N.E. of Bellinzona, Italy: deciduous woodland. 1 ♂ *Lopinga achine* Scopoli (badly chipped); several *M. galathea*; several *Mellicta athalia celadussa* Fruhstorfer.

8th July. (13) Albula Pass area, north of St. Moritz, Switzerland: damp grassy areas.

9th July. (14) Near Lermoos, Austria: north-facing slopes. A few *Mellicta aurelia* Nickerl; several *Erebia manto* S.; several *E. oeme*.

11th July. (15) Near St. Leonardo, north of Merano, Italy: varied habitats.

11th and 12th July. (16) Brenner Pass, Italy: south-facing grassy slopes. *Euphydryas cynthia alpicola* Galvagni (common and especially fond of settling on *Vaccinium* bushes); several *Mellicta asteria* Freyer (fresh); 1 ♀ *Pontia callidice* H.; 3+ *Erebia eriphyle tristis* H.-S.; several *Erebia nivalis* De Lesse & Lorkovic (fresh ♂♂).

12th July. (17) Near Laion, N.E. of Bolzano, Italy: banks of vetch by roadside (light woodland). 1 fresh ♀ *Hipparchia semele cadmus* Fruhstorfer.

12th and 13th July. (18) Passo di Sella area, E. of Bolzano, Italy: varied habitats. 1 *Erebia pluto alecto* H.; 1 ♂ *G. alexis* (worn); 1 *P. andromedae*; 2 ♂ *Plebicula amanda* Schneider.

14th July. Passo di Falzarego, W. of Cortina, Italy: top of Pass. 4 ♂ and 2 ♀ *Erebia pluto* De Prunner, ranging from *pluto pluto* to *pluto alecto*. (19) Near Misurina, N.E. of Cortina, Italy: boggy fields and spruce woodland. 1 fresh ♂ *C. thore*. (20) Near Stabiziane, E. of Cortina, Italy: damp flowery meadows, bordered by spruce woodland.

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15th July. (21) East of Belluno, Italy: varied habitats. 1 perfect *Limenitis populi* L.; 1 *Maculinea alcon rebeli* Hirschke; 1 *Colias crocea* Geoffroy; 4 *Euphydryas intermedia wolfenbergeri* Frey. — scattered sightings. Near Mattarello, S. of Trento, Italy: clearing in deciduous woodland. 1 ♀ *Lycaeides idas* f. *opulentus* Verity; 2 *Polygonia c-album* f. *hutchinsoni* L.; 2 *Inachis io* L.; 1 *Quercusia quercus* L.; 1 ♂ *O. venata*; a few *T. lineola*.

16th and 17th July. (22) East of Lake Garda, Italy: varied habitats. 2 *Strymonidia spini*; several *Coenonympha tullia rhodopensis* f. *italica* Verity; *Carcharodus flocciferus* Zeller; many *P. mnemosyne*; many *Erebia gorge triopes* Speyer (fresh, and especially brightly marked).

18th July. (23) Near Torbole, S.W. of Trento, Italy: rocky hillside, with rough terraced orchards. Several *Pieris mannii* Mayer; a few *S. spini*; a few *Iphiclides podalirius* L.; several *Satyrus ferula* Fabricius; 1 *Scolitantides orion* Pallas. (24) Near Madonna di Campiglio, N.W. of Trento, Italy: mixed woodland. 1 ♀ *Argynnis paphia* f. *valesina* Esper; 1 *C. thore* (♂). (25) Near Vermiglio, N.W. of Trento, Italy: rough meadows, near R. Noce. 1 ♂ *P. mnemosyne*; 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ *P. amanda*.

19th July. (26) Near Pontresina, E. of St. Moritz, Switzerland: varied habitats. Many *E. cynthia alpicola* (associated with *Vaccinium* bushes); 1 ♂ *Mellicta varia* Meyer Dür; several fresh ♂ *Erebia flavofasciata* f. *thiemei* Bartel (local); 1 ♀ *E. pluto* (transitional to *oreas*); 1 ♂ *Argiades glandon* De Prunner; several ♂ *Polyommatus eros* Ochsenheimer; 2 *Colias palaeno europome* Esper (fresh); many *E. gorge* (transitional to *triopes*); several *Vaccinia optilete* Knoch (near *Vaccinium* bushes); 1 *M. alcon rebeli*; 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ *P. amanda*; several *P. callidice*.

20th July. Albula Pass: see (13), grassy slopes. A few *E. gorge* (transitional to *triopes*); 2 *Erebia manto pyrrhula* Frey; 1 ♂ *V. optilete*; a few *P. eros*.

20th July. (27) Near Chiavenna, S.W. of St. Moritz, Italy: grassy clearings, in deciduous woods. 1 ♂ *Minois dryas* Scopoli; 1 *S. orion*.

21st July. (28) S.E. of Lugano, Switzerland: hillside. 2 ♂ and 2 ♀ *Erebia styx triglites* Fruhstorfer — rocky slopes; 1 ♂ *P. dorylas*. N. of Rivera, S.W. of Bellinzona, Italy: clearing by roadside. 1 *M. athalia celadussa*; a few *M. galathea*; 1 ♀ *Heteropterus morpheus* Pallas; a few *O. venata*.

21st and 22nd July. (29) Near Vogogna, Italy: varied habitats. 1 *Libythea celtis* Laicharting (fresh); several *H. morpheus*; 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ *Celastrina argiolus* L.; 1 *C. flocciferus*; 1 *Fabriciana adippe* f. *cleodoxa* Ochsenheimer; several *S. orion*; a few *I. podalirius*; 1 *S. ferula*; 2 *M. arion arion*.

22nd and 23rd July. Simplon Pass: see (10). Several *Erebia christi* Raetzer (1 worn ♀) — local; several *Erebia montana goante* Esper (only 1 ♀); 1 ♂ *P. dorylas*; 1 *Philotes baton* Bergstrasser; 1 ♂ *A. glandon*; 1 ♂ *P. eros*; 1 *Erebia aethiops* Esper; several *Hyponephele lycaon* Kuehn; 1 ♂ *Hesperia comma* L.

23rd and 24th July. Near Nyon: see (4). 2 *Nymphalis polychloros* L.; 2+ *Apatura iris* (1 ♀) — 1 was observed feeding on umbellifers; 3+ *Apatura ilia* S. — 2 worn ♂♂ and 1 fresh ♀ (f. *clytie*); 3 fresh *Brintesia circe* Fabricius; many *Q. quercus*.

25th July. (30) E. of Chalon-sur-Saone, France: mixed deciduous woodland. 1 *Limnitis reducta* Staudinger; 1 *Q. quercus*.

### KEY TO TABLE

F=Few : 0–10 specimens seen.

S. & Sev.=Several: 10–20 specimens seen.

C=Common : over 20 specimens seen.

Where known, exact numbers of specimens seen are given.

N.B. Figures used in the text correspond to those used in the table and they serve as abbreviations for the localities.

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RHYACIA SIMULANS (HUFN.): DOTTED RUSTIC IN HAMPSHIRE. — A single specimen of this scarce species was taken by m.v. trap at Ashurst, Hants., on 28th July, 1976. It was incorrectly identified and placed in a series of *Spaelotis ravida* (D. & S.): Stout Dart, taken at the same site. Its true identity was recently pointed out to me by Barry Goater. — J. C. A. CRAIK, 48 Whartons Lane, Ashurst, Hants.

A SECOND(?) OCCURRENCE OF ELACHIPTERA UNISETA COLL. (DIPT.: CHLOROPIDAE), A NOTABLE ADDITION TO THE KENT FAUNA. — Examination of some dead reeds (*Typha*) by a lake in Danson Park, Bexleyheath, about five miles east of here, on 9th March last, revealed large numbers of the common little Chloropid *Elachiptera cornuta* Fall. (Oscinellinae) hibernating between the leaves and stems. Among them was one smaller fly, paler and obviously different, but apparently of the same genus; this proved later to be very distinctive, especially in its coloration — the yellowish thorax having an elongate dark patch at each side. It was readily determined from Collin, 1946, *Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.*, 97 (5): 146, as the hitherto very rare and little-known *Elachiptera uniseta* Coll., described in 1939 (*Ent. mon. Mag.*, 75: 150) on 3 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ bred in July 1933 from a reed-bunting's nest at Black Park, Bucks., by Mr. E. B. Basden. Mr. Collin, in his 1946 paper, stated that he had seen no further specimens. Having searched only the literature at my disposal, without finding any later record of the species, I cannot assert categorically that mine is only the second — though it appears likely. The Kentish example tallies in every respect with the description, including the critical character of the single pair of orbital bristles which distinguishes *E. uniseta* from the Mediterranean and Atlantic *E. bimaculata* Lw. The situation in which the fly was obtained on both occasions makes it probable that this is a reed-feeding species. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London, SE3 8QG.